RP

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

January 9, 1987
RP:0069

District Engineer (PODCO-O)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Sir:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PODCO
Kuilima Resort (Kawela Stream Diversion)
Kahuku, Oahu

The above cited application relates to a request to discharge dredged or fill material into an upland dewatering site, to divert Kawela Stream into the West Main Drain, to improve the outlets of both the West and East Main Drains, and to dredge silt from a location in Kawela Bay. This review was prepared with the assistance of James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit; Clifford Smith, Botany; and Walington Yee, Environmental Center.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative fishery Program in the Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, has made some specific suggestions regarding the design of stream channelization projects in order to enhance the survival of the native diadromous fish. These included recommendations that all drainage channels should have a low, small central channel within the main channel. This would assure that low stream flows would be diverted into this smaller area thus permitting the fish to use the stream. Has this design feature been considered in the design of the outlets?.

We note that the applicant has requested permission to "improve" the outlets of both the West and East Main Drains, to dredge silt from Kawela Bay and "authorization to maintain" the new drains, outlets, weir and the Bay. Certain controls are cited to be imposed during the improvement. What controls will be required during the longer term "maintainance" operations to minimize environmental damage and in particular what "maintainance" will be permitted in the Bay?

The dredged material is to be placed at an upland dewatering site. Will any runoff be permitted to enter the bay? The public notice states that a weir will prevent salt water intrusion into Punahoolapa Marsh. Have

the weir and drain been designed to handle drainage from the marsh as well as prevent drainage to the marsh from the sea? In general the drainage issue is not well addressed and should be considered prior to construction of the various new outlets and structures. Will the East main drain channel result in damage to primary dunes in the area? We were pleased to note that pedestrian movement and littoral drift, if any, will not be obstructed along the shoreline.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute comments on this public notice.

Yours truly,

Jacquelin N. Miller

Jacquelin N. Miller
Acting Associate Director

cc OEQC
Stephen Lau
James Parrish
Clifford Smith
Walington Yee